STATUS OF GENDER INEQUALITY IN BIRBHUM DISTRICT: A STUDY IN SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY

Ph. D PROPOSAL (SYNOPSIS)

Researcher

Uttiya Chattopadhyay

Supervisor

Prof. Uma Sankar Malik

Geography Department

Visva Bharati, Santiniketan

Uttiya Chattopadhyay
13.07.18

Umasankar Malik
14/7/18

Uma Sankar Malik
Professor
Department of Geography
Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan-731235

Scanned by CamScanner

CONTENT

SL. No.	Name of the title	Page no.
1.	**Proposed Title of the Research Proposal with the name of the Researcher, Supervisor and Department of the University.**	1
2.	**Introduction to the Research Proposal.**	3
3.	**Objectives/Purpose of the Research.**	4
4.	**Methodology and Data Base of the Research**	4-5
5.	**The Problem Statement.**	5
6.	**The expected/tentative Work Schedule/Timeline.**	5-6
7.	**Location Map of the Study Area**	6
8.	**Tentative Chapterization of the Research.**	7
9.	**The Hypotheses and Expected Result: Contribution to the body of knowledge.**	7-8
10.	**Conclusion.**	8-9
11	**References.**	9

Uma Sanker Malik

Scanned by CamScanner

Status of Gender Inequality in Birbhum District: A Study in Social Geography

Introduction to the Research Proposal:-

For economic and socio-cultural development, at the outset, economic disparities and social inequalities should be identified and duly action should be taken for eradication. In this regard, it is noteworthy to say that among all the social inequalities, Gender Inequality is an important one. Since the dawn of civilization, women are most vulnerable to the deprivation. In recent times, particularly after 1980's socialist feminists are raising their voice against the gender bias. The outcome of this awareness has given birth of the 'Gender Concept' related with the overall human development. Today developmental planning is focused towards 'Human'. The right and freedom of human kind have been given more importance than the hackneyed economy-centric development concepts in the human development aim. In these multi-dimensional human developmental perceptions, the dignity and freedom of women is often underestimated and the result of which is continuous deprivation of women in terms of the attainment of fruit of the development, is observed. This is very prominent is developing countries where unfortunately India is a leading one.

Of the various types of inequalities that exist over the world, inequality between genders has been least represented in the demographic statistics, till recently. Though gender based disparities exist in majority of the world's cultures, religions, nations and income groups. There are differences in the ways these disparities manifest themselves and how they evolve over time. The Researcher's aim is to provide a snapshot of where men and women stand with regard to some fundamental outcome variables related to basic rights such as Health, Education, Economic Participation and Political Involvement related to Country/Region specific policies, culture or custom factors that is considered to be the 'Input' or 'Means Variable'. The present study is an endeavour to build a framework for quantifying the magnitude of gender based disparities from different angles, tracking their temporal progress and recommending effecting measures reducing them.

Scanned by CamScanner

Objectives of the Research:-

- To measure the inequality in economic, political and educational attainment between genders and variation in access to other facilities.
- To find out the layers of society which are vulnerable to the concentration of gender inequality in the study area.
- To find the effect of gender inequality in micro level.
- To quantify and compare the differential disparity among the areas.
- To find out the possible reason of the regional variation of the disparity in the study area.
- To focus on the rural-urban disparity difference.
- To focus on the nature of gender inequality in rural and urban areas.

Methodology and Data Base of the Research:-

The position of women in India has transformed in course of time. Great strides have been made in ensuring equality for women in society throughout the entire nation as well as in regional level. Keeping in mind the local and micro level variations like in Caste, Religion and Class based differences which have a definite impact on the women in India. The present study tries to draw some broad generalization as well as micro level factor analysis that have impacted women in Block level as one of the smallest administrative units. The common indicators of the gender issues are-

- Family
- Economics
- Literacy
- Education
- Health
- Policies
- Violence

Scanned by CamScanner

On the basis of the above mentioned criteria, there are numerous statistical and mathematical processes as well as qualitative techniques which can define and evaluate the level of gender inequality and gender development as well.

Data Base:-

The data sources which will be helpful to collect requisite information as well as data are-

Primary Source-

- Field Survey (door to door survey) with sampling
- Perception Study
- Expert Consultation

Secondary Source-

- Literature Survey
- Census Data
- District Statistical Handbook Data
- News papers
- NGOs

The Problem Statement:-

As, lots of work is not available in such micro level work in Gender Inequality, therefore there is obvious paucity of the data availability. This is the number one problem. Secondly due to the lack of both education and awareness, many of the individuals are not concerned about the issue, which is an important hindrance collecting field data. Thirdly, There is a possibility of: a positive response bias, or the tendency of respondents to want to please the surveyor, or to give the "morally correct" answer; a misunderstanding of the concepts; and an unwillingness to respond to a particular question. Fourthly, generalization of statistical techniques is done due to the unavailability of data. In these cases manipulation of sampling data, collected from primary survey, is used.

The expected/tentative Work Schedule/Timeline:-

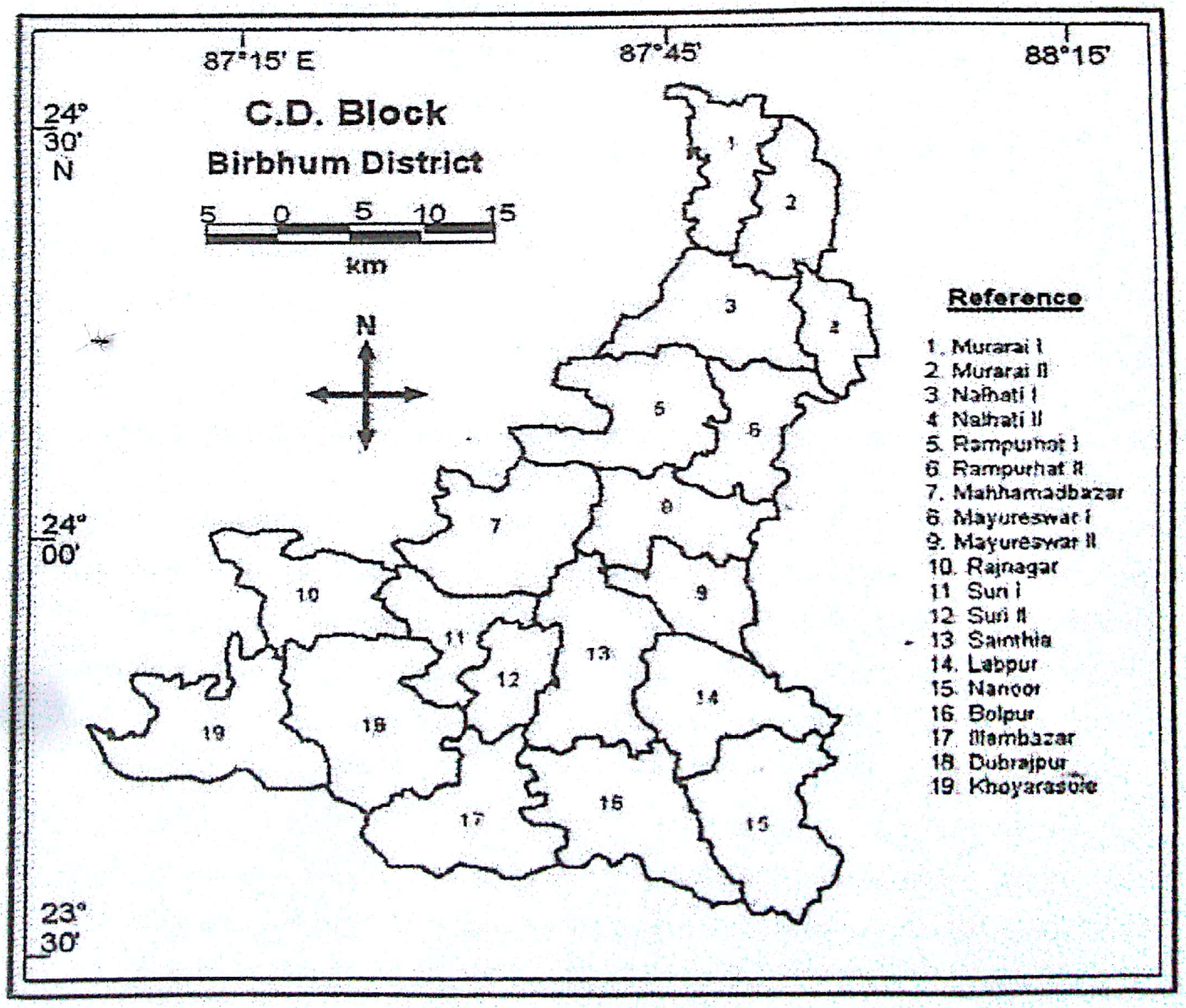
The schedule or timeline for the proposed completion of the research will be followed by the below given timeline.

Scanned by CamScanner

- First 6 months from the commencement of the research: Literature Survey & Secondary Data Collection about the Topic and Study Area.
- Second 6 months: Field study and Perception Study for Primary Data Collection.
- Third 6 months: Analysis, Synthesis and Interpretation of the collected Data.
- Forth 6 months: Submission to the Supervisor for rectification.
- Fifth 6 months: Preparation for final submission.

Above given timeline is tentative. Due changes may be accomplished in course of time.

Location map of study area:-



Scanned by CamScanner

Tentative Chapterisation of the Research:-

The expected chapters of the study will be in the following manner given below-

- Introduction.
- Chapter 1: Geographical Settings – (a) Physical & (b) Socio-cultural
- Chapter 2: Gender Inequality in Demography
- Chapter 3: Gender Inequality in Health
- Chapter 4: Gender Inequality in Education
- Chapter 5: Gender Inequality in Work Participation
- Chapter 6: Crime Against Women (CAW)
- Chapter 7: Gender Inequality in Women Welfare and Empowerment
- Chapter 8: Case Study (On the basis of Primary Survey)
- Chapter 9: Analysis – (a) Technical (Quantitative) and (b) Reconnaissance (Qualitative)
- Chapter 10: Summery of the Findings
- Chapter 11: Recommendation
- Chapter 12: Conclusion

The Hypotheses and Expected Result: Contribution to the body of knowledge:-

In our Constitution 'Right to Freedom' is one the important Fundamental Rights, where it is written that 'The Principle of Equity means that there are no special privileges and no distinction based on Religion, Caste, Colour and Sex (Gender).' But in the real ground, from the historic ages to the recent times, there are enough inequalities and biasness remaining at every corner of our society and this is why several endeavours against gender inequality is noticed to create educational infrastructure in society. To take action against the inequality, it has to be identified first from the grass-root level. This (Present Research) kind of research is the initial step to measure the level of inequality and to participate in the gender development in its own different ways. Both the developing and developed countries have taken some development agendas to upgrade the situation of women worldwide. 8th march, 16th may, 26th august are considered as International Women's Day, International Mother' Day and International Equity Day respectively. On the other hand the year of 1975 and 2001 have been acknowledged as International Women Year and International Women Empowerment Year respectively.

Scanned by CamScanner

Eminent Feminist M. Buvinic in 1983, directed us towards the gender development approach for the first time, namely-

- (1) Welfare Approach: - In 1950-60, this approach was first introduced in developing countries. This approach stresses on the improvement of health, nutrition intake of women. The aim of women's life, according to this approach is to give birth of sound and healthy children who will be the successor of future India.
- (2) Equity Approach: - It was first introduced by UNO in the 'Women Decade' (1976-85). The American feminist propounded this approach. In every point of development, acquisition of equal output is the focal aim of this approach. But unfortunately in India, this approach has not been much valued.
- (3) Anti-poverty Approach: - In developing countries, to improve the situation of the poor women, this particular approach has been taken as a development measure. In society women are poorer due to the fact that they economically depend upon the men. Anti-poverty approach is a measure to reduce the number of depended women.
- Later on, Women Researcher and Social Scientist Prof. Caroline Moser has added extra 2 types of approach, namely-
- (4) Efficiency Approach: - In this approach involvement of women in economic activities is emphasized for making backward women more efficient and efficiency, in turn, upgrades the situation of those women. But in developing countries, the family has been turned into a 'social institution' for society to supply women as a cheap labour in labour intensive works.
- (5) Empowerment Approach: - This is the most modern concept regarding the gender approach. This approach confesses that gender inequality starts from family and by the family members initially. This approach acknowledges that giving empowerment is the only way to remove gender bias from society.

Conclusion:-

It can be finally said that eradication of gender inequality is a long term endeavour. Even today, when the gender inequality has reached in its climax position, voice rising against it is still not enough. Researched conducted about it is in macro level, which ignores local factors and perceptions. So, micro level study is extremely required in every part of the country to create a mosaic of different dimensions of gender inequality. It is noteworthy to say that inequality cannot be removed suddenly. It needs a deep study and planning. Enactment of law is not a justified strategy. Right and freedom are not gained at mercy. It is the matter of achievement by struggle. Here struggle does not indicate to the struggle of women only, it is the struggle of

Scanned by CamScanner

entire society to achieve the goal. 'Promoting gender equity and empowering women is among the Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of UNDP, which it envisages to achieve by the year 2015. Hence every individual should advance a step forward towards the goal. We should always remember the utterance of Swami Vivekananda-**It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved.**

References:-

1. Sen. A, Many Faces of Gender Inequality.
2. Human Development Report, Birbhum, Women and children,Chapter 7, pg-127
3. Status of Women and Children in the District, Chapter 6, District Human Development Report, Pakur

Uttiya Chattopadhyay

Researcher's Signature

(Uttiya Chattopadhyay)

17/7/18

Supervisor's Signature

(Prof. Uma Sankar Malik)

Uma Sankar Malik
Professor
Department of Geography
Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan-731235

Scanned by CamScanner